POINT THREE

The monthly magazine of Toc H
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POINT THREE

December 1973

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.

2 To give personal service.

3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.

4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the cover:
Not, in fact, a mother and child but one of the members of the Toc H group at the Umtali Teachers' Training College on the children's ward at the local TB hospital.

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

VIEW POINT

Christmas says 'opt in'

Whether or not one agrees with those who believe that Jesus came to do away with religion the Incarnation underlines the difference between Christianity and other religions. 'The Word was made flesh' is a claim unique to Christianity. For the Hindu or the Buddhist the world is transient and of little importance. Perfection is withdrawal from the material world into the world of the spirit. The Christian, by contrast, claims that God Himself did not just create the world, he loved it was worth dying for. Perfection is to be sought through engagement in this world and through involvement with other people, not through withdrawal into other-worldliness. Dag Hammarskjöld's famous comment, 'the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action', is perhaps the 20th-century equivalent of St John's phrase, 'the Word was made flesh'. This is the meaning of Christmas, the Feast of the Incarnation.

Christmas, at the very least, provides a quite new definition of the word 'religion'; and one that challenges something that appears to be deeply embedded in human nature. Christianity itself, throughout its history, has had a strong strand of other-worldliness running through it. For many Christians withdrawal from the world has been a basic part of their spirituality. This world has been seen as no more than the preparation for the life to come. The continuing strength of this view of religion is indicated by the interest of many young people in Zen Buddhism, spiritualism and the world of magic. So far as there is a modern religious revival it seems to be based on 'opting out'. But the challenge of Christmas remains to 'opt in'.

Jesus laid down no elaborate ritual or forms of worship. He taught his followers one simple prayer and showed them that taking a meal with one's friends is a sacred act. It is round the table, at a simple meal, that His spirit lives on. Our material world and our human nature are not millstones preventing the achievement of spiritual grace but are sacred.

Christmas reminds us of our commitment to this world in which 'the Word was made flesh'. This means 'seeing the needs of others as our own' and caring sufficiently to attempt, so far as it lies within our power, to deal with causes as well as with symptoms. For example, when we know of old people suffering from the cold we can, and should, give them firewood. We also can, and should, speak out loudly and publicly in favour of more adequate heating allowances for all pensioners. And if this means getting involved in the dirty world of politics let us remember that it was this dirty world which Christ regarded as sacred.

Our concern for the needs of others, however, is only a part of our commitment. Much more important than any acts of service, however self-sacrificial, is our attitude to people. The way of life which Christ demonstrated was based on openness to people, on friendship with 'all sorts and conditions of men' and on relationships in which, in words which John Jones uses in writing of Tubby elsewhere in this issue, 'party and class labels are brushed aside and the individual human being becomes (our) chief concern.'

The message of Christmas is that this world which 'God so loved' matters. The needs of human beings in this life matter. Above all, personal relationships matter. We are called to 'opt in'.

K P-B

All at Headquarters, both in London and at Wendover, take this opportunity of sending Christmas greetings to their colleagues and former colleagues, to Toc H members throughout the world and to all readers of Point Three.

Peace and Joy

News from the Council

New structure 'tool' for extension

The new structure of Toc H outlined in the Central Executive's paper Action for the Seventies, *which was accepted by Council, 'is not an end in itself', said Planning Committee chairman Tim Hulbert, who presented the report. 'It is a tool which enables us to get on with the real job of extending the Movement.'*¶

The report, which was very fully discussed by the Council over several hours, calls for the establishment of Regional Councils and Executive Committees with the responsibility for determining priorities in the use of resources within the Region; and District Executive Committees to handle routine administration, freeing members of the present District Teams to concentrate on extension and development. In introducing the report, Tim stressed that the keynote was involvement, and he said that there had been widespread consultation in formulating the recommendations. The proposals were an attempt to put into practice the policies set out in Strategy for the Seventies.

Council photos by Bob Broeder

John Trimmer (Spring Parks) contributes to the debate on *Action for the Seventies*.

Districts

The section of the report devoted to Districts aroused the longest discussion. The recommendations were accepted by 62 votes to 38.

The powers now exercised by District Teams will in future be taken over by District Executive Committees, 'consisting only of a chairman, secretary and treasurer, and if so desired a maximum of two other members', with the Central Councillor *ex officio*. The Executive will be elected at an annual District meeting, which will also create such other groups as it wishes. 'It is hoped,' says the report, 'that Districts will seize the chance to form development groups, extension teams, project committees, etc, some of which could be on a multi-District basis.'

Several Councillors spoke of a desire for flexibility in creating structures at District level. Ken Broadfield (Birmingham), for instance, said that his District had adopted a structure very similar to that proposed. Nevertheless, he was opposed to the proposals as they stood. 'It's a good idea in principle,' he said, 'but should not be obligatory.' Tim Hulbert said that there had to be some kind of uniform pattern but that he felt that the opportunity for the creation of *ad hoc* teams allowed sufficient room for variations according to local needs. He opposed an amendment put forward by David Ratcliff (West Surrey) which would have required the appointment of formal development teams as well as District Executives.

Tim pointed out that one of the major changes proposed was that District officers would now be elected at a District meeting in which all members, whether or not they were attached to branches, would be entitled to participate. To make this possible the register of those now listed as Area or Central members would be kept at District level. On the proposal of Sheila Rowan-Hamilton (North-East Scotland), an amendment empowering the Central Executive to authorise a postal vote where distance made it impossible to hold a representative District meeting was accepted.

Reg Peters (Abingdon) was concerned that the proposals contained 'no provision for the feedback of information to branches'. Tim said that a priority concern for the new District Executives must be good communication. This might be achieved by the deliberate inclusion of branch representatives on development or extension teams, or by the issue of regular reports or newsletters. Tim said that since the report had been prepared the Central Executive had realised that it was unrealistic to expect that District Executive Committees could be created throughout the country within five months. He therefore accepted an amendment to the effect that the new structure should be introduced by 31 March 1975.

Regions

The second major change proposed in the report is the creation of a new administrative tier, at Regional level, between the District and the Central Executive. Tim Hulbert said that the basic purpose behind the change was the greater involvement of the mem-

Headquarters Padre Bob Knight addresses the Council.

David Ratcliff (West Surrey), who has been co-opted on to the new Central Executive Committee.

Dennis Till (Blackmore Vale/Lyme Bay) (left) and John Hebditch (West Somerset/Mid-Somerset) discuss their resolution calling for the provision of accommodation for the elderly, a concern which has been frequently aired in our 'Letters' column.

bership in desicion-making. 'The proposals will stand or fall on the contribution which members and Councillors are prepared to make', he added.

Under these proposals Regional Councils will be formed consisting of Central Councillors and Central Executive members living in the Region. As soon as possible, in consultation with the Central Executive, the new Regional Councils will assume responsibility for the preparation of development plans, the use of assets, the management of Marks and Centres, the deployment of staff and membership training. Each Regional Council will appoint an Executive Committee, with a suggested maximum of 10 members.

'In order to achieve successful management at this level,' says the report, 'Regions must be of realistic size, with good communications.' The report envisages that the existing Regions will mostly be split into two or three Regions, but Tim Hulbert stressed that final decisions would be 'subject to local negotiation'. The desire of many South-Eastern Region Councillors to retain the existing boundaries of their Region would be covered by such negotiations.

Bill Mepham (Tunbridge Wells) opposed the whole principle of regionalisation. 'The Region has contributed nothing to Toc H in Kent', he declared. Arthur Frymann (candidate for the Central Executive) was concerned that the maintenance of standards was not listed among the duties of Regional Councils. Tim Hulbert said he believed this was covered by the reference to membership training. John Trimmer (Spring Parks) said he thought that Regional Councils should have the right to participate in the selection of staff. Tim said that the appointment of staff must remain a central responsibility but that this would obviously be exercised in consultation with Regions.

The report as presented included members of staff working in the Region among the members of the Regional Council. George Liddle (Hon Treasurer) moved an amendment to omit them. The staff would obviously be invited to attend and their advice would be sought, but George contended that to give them a vote would place them in an invidious position. The discussion revealed a clear difference of opinion among both Councillors and staff, and the amendment was finally carried by just one vote.

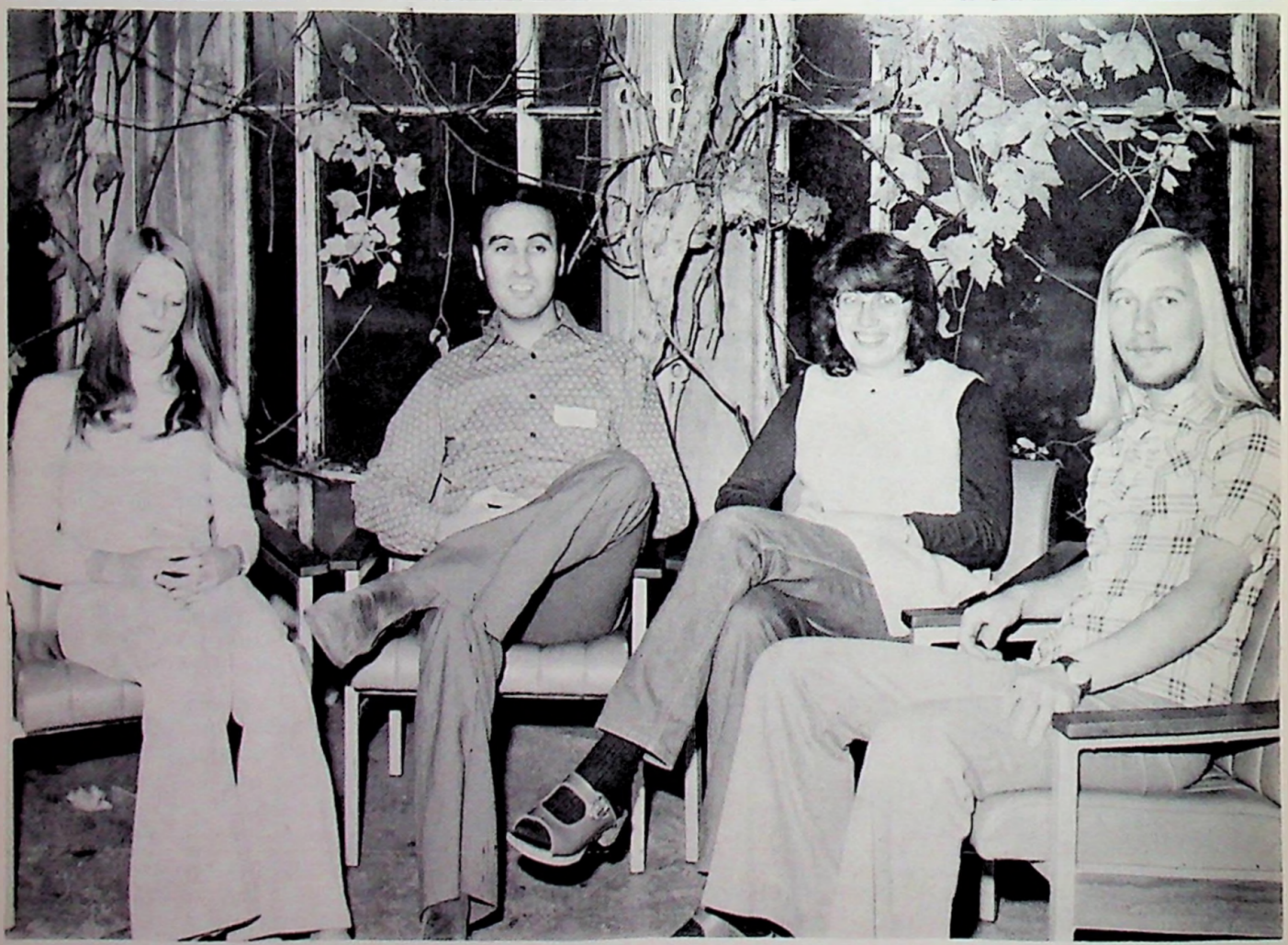
The proposals for regionalisation, as amended, were approved by an overwhelming majority.

Renewal of membership

The report proposed 'that members reaffirm annually in writing their acceptance of the ideals of the Movement . . . and thereby their desire to continue in membership'. Tim Hulbert said that the Central Executive was only asking for approval in principle. Details of how the scheme would operate were still being considered. He assured the Council that the machinery would be kept as simple as possible. Branch members would probably be asked to sign a paper similar to the existing branch roll.

Greta Lynn (second from left), International Secretary, with three overseas visitors to Council: (l to r) Vernon Openshaw (former staff member, South Africa), Pauline O'Daniel (Australia) and Ken Ward (New Zealand).

Gerry Ashfield (Deputy Treasurer) outlines the Movement's investment policy.



New members of staff get together. L to r: Cheryl Sterry (South-Eastern Region projects office), Brian Griffin (South-Eastern Region, based in Kent), Sue Cumming (Midland Region, based in Peterborough) and Richard Jackson (Northern Region, based in Leeds).

David Ratcliff (West Surrey) welcomed the proposal. 'The member will decide if and when he wants to terminate his membership', he said. 'Now the branch decides.' Several Councillors argued that the form should be countersigned by a branch officer to show that the member was still in good standing. Tim Hulbert pointed out that *Strategy for the Seventies* had stressed the principle of 'self-selection' and in consequence had abolished the system of election to membership by branch executives. This proposal was an extension of that principle. Tim assured the Council that the views expressed in favour of the retention of the membership card would be borne in mind in working out the details of the scheme. The proposal was approved.

Copies of *Action for the Seventies* as amended by Council will be distributed to branches as soon as possible.

Go-ahead for S.-E. Region

The Council approved the setting up of a Regional Council and Executive Committee in the South-Eastern Region. In introducing the resolution, John Trimmer (Spring Parks) said that the Region had been working out proposals for decentralisation at the same time as the Planning Committee had been working on *Action for the Seventies*. 'Our thinking', said John, 'is very close to *Action* both in spirit and in the detailed content of the proposals.' He and his seconder, Bob Stewart (Western Approaches), had none the less decided to put their resolution in order to be able 'to take action now, rather than in a year or two years' time. This is an instrument for speedy action in the development of what we hope will be a fruitful experiment.'

Accommodation for the elderly

The Council instructed the Central Executive 'diligently to investigate ways and means whereby Toc H, either independently or in association with other charitable organisations, can provide adequate living accommodation for old and lonely people, including members of Toc H'. This was proposed by George Liddle (Hon Treasurer) as an amendment to a resolution calling on the Executive 'to establish a suitably equipped Toc H residential community, where active elderly and lonely members may live and work together'. Although George said that he had 'considerable sympathy for the intention behind the resolution', he described it as 'too restrictive'. Benefits were restricted to members. In proposing the original resolution, Dennis Till (Blackmore Vale/Lyme Bay) described it as an attempt to slay 'the dragon of loneliness'. He said it was 'a practical means to foster fellowship and link the energies and ideals of retired members with those of younger members living on their own'. 'Retired people don't give up the capacity for hard work', he added.

Investment policy outlined

Gerry Ashfield (Deputy Treasurer and investment adviser) explained to the Council the philosophy behind the policies pursued by the Finance Committee. He said that since the amount received in legacies naturally varied from year to year the amount transferred to the income and expenditure account each year was the average amount received over a 10-year period. He said that the Finance Committee had decided some years ago to dip into capital, which was increasing in value, and to use '3½ per cent of the value of our assets year by year to meet current expenditure'. The sale of 15 Trinity Square had transformed the situation. We were legally obliged to invest half the proceeds in fixed-interest securities, which produced a high income but no capital appreciation. The amount which the Finance Committee believed could be prudently transferred from capital to meet current expenditure was now £60,000 annually.

During the discussion on the accounts George Barnett (Finance Secretary) thanked the branches who had written to their MPs over VAT. It had been impossible to estimate in advance what the effect of VAT would be. However, it was now clear that VAT was 'not costing more than £200 a year' in addition to the salary of the additional member of staff required to deal with the paper work involved.

Priority for extension

The Council resolved to 'give a very high priority to extension'. It rejected, however, the remainder of a resolution proposed by Bill Mepham (Tunbridge Wells) calling for extension 'through branches and Districts' and instructed the Central Executive to allocate staff and funds for this purpose. In introducing the resolution, Bill produced a graph illustrating the decline in membership over the past 20 years. Several Councillors stressed that the responsibility for action lay with Councillors themselves and could not be transferred to the Central Executive or anyone else. Bob Knight (Headquarters Padre) said: 'For the past eight years the Council has consistently pursued a policy of broadening the spectrum. All the evidence is that you don't catch a fish by making an appointment with it. You have to study its habits. The majority of those who have joined the staff in the past year have been brought in by this more flexible way of working.'

Memorial Fund appeal ready

Sir James Brown (Trustee) spoke of the frustrating legal delays in getting the Tubby Clayton Fund established as a separate charity. He read an extract from the revised appeal letter which had now been prepared: 'How will the Fund be used? The field of its special activity will be among younger men and women in the great industrial centres and ports of Britain, where the need to spread the ideals of fellowship,

Left: Familiar faces at Council: Peter Danmers (East Devon) (left) and George Bachmann (Chippenham).

Below: The Rev Philip Bishop, who is working jointly with Toc H and the Industrial Mission, based in Hull.

service, and fair-mindedness is particularly clamant. To achieve this requires today a fresh approach, demanding readiness to experiment, calling for new researches into local problems and opportunities, involving often new training for leadership. These are the very things that have been hampered by lack of money to start them, and it is to the bridging of the gap that the Tubby Clayton Fund will be directed. . . Grants may also be available to help clergymen and ministers to take a full part with laymen in such adventuring.'

Sir James ended by commending to all members the making of a 50p contribution to the Fund at the time of this year's World Chain of Light as a special memorial to Tubby.

Council procedure agreed

Suggestions from the Central Executive clarifying the procedure for Central Council motions was approved without dissent. In future the Executive will decide 'whether any motion falls within such rulings as have already been made by the Council; whether any motion is so unsuitable that it would not be to the good of the Movement that such motion should go forward; and in what order motions should appear on the agenda'. The Executive's report on the action taken under these provisions will be 'the first item on the agenda after the welcomes and preliminaries'.

The new Executive

Two former staff members are among those elected to the Central Executive Committee for the coming year. They are former General Secretary Cyril Cattell, now working for the Spastics' Society and living near Cambridge; and Iain Fraser, who lives in the Lake District, where he served on the staff for many years.

The full list of those elected is: Harry Brier, Alan Brooke, Cyril Cattell, Mrs Agnes Cook, Mrs Betty Cornick, John Cutt, Iain Fraser, Tom Gulliver, Tim Hulbert, Mrs Vera Inglis, Donald Lockhart, Mrs Doris Longley, Harry Mills, 'Doc' Mitchell, John Morgan, Mrs Marcia Nicholson, Beryl Pugh, and Ralph Thorne.

As usual, the new Central Executive has co-opted two additional members: Mrs Olive Tennant from Norfolk and David Ratcliff from Surrey.

Council news in brief

The Diamond Jubilee Festival Evening will take place in Westminster Central Hall on 31 May 1975, announced Festival Committee Chairman Doris Longley. In preparing the plans for the evening the Committee would bear in mind all the views expressed in the replies to last year's questionnaire. There would be a service in Westminster Abbey earlier in the day, and the cost of the day would be just £1.

As with most Toc H gatherings one of the real values of the Council week-end is the opportunity to meet people and to chat informally between sessions.

Eric Hodges (Swindon) spoke of the summer school run by the North Wiltshire Gypsy Council, initiated by Toc H. The Council was launching a pre-school playgroup for gypsy children and the Wiltshire County Council had undertaken to finance it.

A motion which would have empowered the Central Executive 'to engage established members of Toc H to serve on the staff at a level of salary not less than they are receiving at the time of their engagement' was rejected by the Council. The motion was proposed by Peter Danmers (East Devon) and George Bachmann (Chippenham).

Alan Brooke (Chairman of the Methods Committee) reported on the results of the questionnaire on flashing light emergency help schemes, outlined elsewhere in this issue. He added that the Methods Committee had been in touch with the National Council for Social Service. He understood that a survey of the different available schemes was being conducted and that the results would be available next March.

For Christmas

Records

A Tapestry of Winter, a seasonal recording of music and poetry by the New Anglian Singers and Sir Bernard Miles. A 7 inch long-playing record.

75p

Tubby Talking, the unique recording of our Founder Padre in conversation with a group of friends. A 12 inch long-playing record.

£1.50

Calendars

Colourful Calendars 12 inches × 17 inches. Four beautiful full colour scenes of Britain. Each one overprinted with Toc H. Complete with envelope. A different sort of present and useful publicity material.

30p each

Toc H Publications,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. HP22 6BT

TUBBY

The first anniversary of the death of Tubby Clayton falls this month and we mark the occasion by printing extracts from the sermon written by John Jones for the Thanksgiving Service for Tubby's life and ministry held at St Asaph Cathedral.

'Great men have had
The needed balance,
Sometimes gay, sometimes sad,
Sometimes, perhaps by chance,
They have been able to enhance
The whole world or indeed,
Make a new one,
Plant the seed,
Fulfil our need,
Blaze out a sun.'

Those are lines from a recent poem by Elizabeth Jennings. She was not writing about Tubby Clayton, but no words could be more appropriate to his particular greatness and genius. As in his life, so in every remembrance of him the nickname is the password to that very human and spiritual force which was the man himself. It is the great man, Tubby, we remember, sometimes gay, sometimes sad, as so many times we knew him in his public work and in his personal relationships as friend and counsellor. I see him again on some of his unforgettable journeys through Wales, enchanting and inspiring great audiences at Mold, Llandudno, and especially Criccieth, where at the end he brought the audience to its feet in a passion of applause, and won a most memorable and moving tribute from that great Welshman, Dr William George. But I also see him sick visiting in Crickhowell Cottage Hospital, visiting one Sapper Will Leonard, whom Tubby insisted on calling 'the greatest saint in Wales', and instead of Tubby ministering 'our sweet reprieve and ransom' to the dying man, I see him drop on his knees at the bedside, gently lift the old soldier's hand on to his own bowed head, and whisper, 'Bless me now, Will; say a prayer for your old friend.'

But let us return to the lines by Elizabeth Jennings:
'Sometimes, perhaps by chance,
They have been able to enhance
The whole world or indeed,
Make a new one.'

I wonder if even yet we fully appreciate the real significance of Tubby's life-work and ministry. The perfection of the heroes of faith more often than not is a posthumous action and revelation. It may be that Tubby could be criticised as not radical enough or political enough, or as a man sold to one early period and experience of his life and bereft of the relevant word in the revolutionary age which followed. But time has a knack of confounding critics. Much that monopolises public attention in our age of hate, cruelty and violence is due to the drugging of millions by an overdose of theoretical dogma and the decrease of human relationships and (what is even more tragic) we see the obsession leading to an ultimate despair of the human situation and of life itself. But when we try to assess Tubby's life-work against the background of contemporary history, the picture is quite different. Party and class labels are brushed aside, and the individual human being becomes the Christian pastor's chief concern. This was Tubby's especial field of work. He believed in people, and what they might be and do in Christian service. And he believed in life, even under the most tragic conditions, as essentially good in meaning and purpose, and, working at this, he enhanced the world of his generation, and met their need, and planted the seed, and blazed the sun of a new, redemptive kind of human fellowship for future generations in Toc H.

I know of no one who was so constantly on duty as a Christian pastor as Tubby Clayton. His working day was as much starlit as sunlit. Writing, conferring, visiting, making new friendships and keeping the old in a state of good repair, this filled his day. His correspondence was nothing perfunctory. If you received a mere postcard the message would be unique of its kind, and stamped with the full concern of his mind. Somehow he could make even the date significant, and as for one's name it became a mini-Gospel. If collaborators sometimes marvelled at the muddle he could create when he tried to keep business accounts, they marvelled even more at his fanatical care of address lists and files on people and places. He did not set forth a creed or manifesto. His aim was to get men and women working for specific projects. He converted the old horse-and-carriage term of 'jobmaster' to its present Toc H meaning. He saw the vision and leadership of the jobmaster as central to the life of a house or branch of Toc H. 'Let the jobmaster's innings immediately follow the Ceremony of Light,' he used to say. None knew better than he the value of the limited objective. Tubby saw that the scope for joy and gallantry in a

practical religion of that kind was simply miraculous, and it was proved a thousand times over once Toc H got under way.

On his achievements alone his fame is unquestionably secure. Nevertheless, I believe that many in the future will come (like ourselves) to give thanks for something even more precious in his life and work, and that I can only describe as his inspired priesthood. There is no doubt that he lived for the coming of Christ as a reality in men's lives. He had seen his friends, the friends of his youth, strengthened by their faith in the midst of a furnace of war seven times heated. He could tell of Christ's converting power in the lives of hundreds of men known personally to him. Also he knew that no soft contentment with a narrow piety would accomplish the work. Always he slaved for that faith which awakened men's wills, and engaged them actively in the rule of God's Kingdom fighting evil and establishing good. Baptism according to Tubby did not end with the individual. It meant the baptism into Christ 'of all the avenues and ways of common life, the culture and labour of the nations, the spirit and outlook of the people'. He himself had no inhibitions. He was a priest for all seasons, all kinds of weather, all sorts and conditions of men. Through Toc H he taught thousands to pray, and it is to be noted that he taught them grown-up prayers, prayers for a true maturity of living. He longed to see in Toc H that spirit of courage and love and selfless service which would mediate the very truth of the living Christ to men and women often in the midst of their own personal (and sometimes desperate) need. This was his answer to the aridity and emptiness of so much that possesses the mind of modern society–especially the modern indifference to the Gospel.

Being Tubby, it was almost inevitable that his priesthood should be intensely personal, free of irrelevant considerations, and become a miracle of catholicity. The extraordinary result was that he always stood at the centre of a worldwide and immeasurably rich fellowship of friends. They were very diverse in character and conviction, and he never expected them to be otherwise, any more than that they should expect him to modify in any way his beloved Anglicanism. But the astonishing thing was this; that although so many of his friends held beliefs so radically different from his own in religion and politics, they did not hesitate to confess that Tubby was not only to them a friend but a blessed and formative influence in their own so different work. And so among his friends he could name Radicals and Royalty; Pacifists and Generals; Jewish Rabbis and Roman Catholic Archbishops; men both revolutionary and moderate in the fight against racial discrimination; Christians of all persuasions, and Conservatives and Progressives of all description. His prayers when he celebrated the Holy Communion were often lists of such names pondered over in grace and awe, a discipline gratis for the pew-bound and uninitiated, but, for Tubby, a taking of the Kingdom of Heaven by force, clearing a space at the feet of Jesus for his revered friends. If you were known to Tubby you would be named in his prayers. To share his friendship meant sharing his ministry. He was not a Baptist but he practised the priesthood of all believers. He went further. He charmed a notable number of non-believers into the same field of harvest. If you went to hear him preach at the Royal Chapel of St James he would be involving the dignitaries there in the hardships of the fisherfolk of the Orkneys. If you entertained him in North Wales, he would leave you with the care of a retired Egyptologist in Pensarn. If you took the risk of travelling with him in South Wales you took home a follow-up visiting list as long as your arm. And as for the Marches, after Tubby had done with you, your prayers would embrace the whole social spectrum from the Lord Lieutenant to hotel waiters. But Wales, although his affection for it knew no bounds, reaching back as it did to his annual boyhood holidays at Fishguard, was but one corner of his worldwide parish. Wherever he went he was always mediating the Light and Love of his Lord, always building the Christian community, always the inspired priest. And that so many over the years, even down to young people of today, caught his secret and offered themselves to the work is a multitudinous proof, if such were needed, of the reality and authenticity of Tubby's high calling and apostleship fulfilled.

And now I should say that his voice is stilled. But that is not quite the truth. I dare say many of us will again listen to him on tapes and records. It was a very distinctive voice and easily mimicked by those so inclined. We can also hear it again in our minds, the deep, growling tone, with its warning hesitances of approach and the inevitable rebuke to his pet dog, 'Down, Chippie, down!'

If we can recall it I wonder what we might hear him say, or rather what he would wish we could hear him say. I think it could well be that question (which he mischievously attributed to Rudyard Kipling):
'What shall they know of Talbot House
Who only the ground floor know?'

OUR NEW PRINTERS

This issue of *Point Three* is the first to be printed at the National Children's Home Printing Department at Harpenden, Herts. The fascinating history of the Department is traced in this article by the Department's Manager, Mr B W Beck.

In the early days of the Home one of the major activities was the chopping of firewood which was loaded on to a cart drawn by a donkey and hawked round the streets of Lambeth.

For the purpose of publicising this activity an old platen and a small quantity of type was acquired in 1871 and handbills were printed. A small room, part of the stable where the donkey was housed in Bonner Road, was set aside to house this equipment, and in this setting the first boys in the Home were initiated into the mysteries of Caxton's art.

This early experiment must have proved successful for in 1872 we learn that a printing unit had been established, although there appears to be no record of what the unit comprised. In the years that followed additional plant was acquired, but we are informed of the severe restrictions under which work was carried on and the handicaps under which the young men worked.

When it was decided to move the London branch from Bonner Road to Harpenden, plans were put in hand for a structurely well planned building which materialised in 1913 when the plant and equipment together with the staff and apprentices, were moved to the Hertfordshire countryside.

Although many difficulties had to be overcome through the early years which coincided with World War I, the post-war years saw the consolidation of the printing works, the main emphasis being on the production of work for the Home which provided practical experience for the apprentices. As the number of branches increased, so more school leavers wishing to be printers came to Harpenden to be housed with the families living in the houses forming the Harpenden branch and, in their later years of apprenticeship, in the hostels situated close by.

Increased work resulted in a large extension being added in 1936 providing a modern ground-level printing establishment of 10,000 square feet. How far-seeing and effective had

The printing department in the grounds of the Harpenden branch of the National Children's Home.

been the vision of those who planned the original construction in 1912, for even today their project meets all the needs of an up-to-date factory.

During the inter-war years modern plant was installed, including three large quad-crown Miehle presses and a 'Monotype' keyboard and caster enabling the mechanical setting and casting of type. It is of interest to read that in 1935 the payments to working boys were: at 14 years of age 2d per week, at 15, 3d per week; at 16, 6d per week, at 17 [illegible] per week. At 18 they were officially [illegible]ng and earned 7s 6d per week; 10s at 19 and [illegible]d at 20.

After World War I evening classes were held to provide some theoretical instruction and we read of successes in the Stationers Company Examinations and City and Guilds Examinations during the years 1919 to 1941, but the advent of World War II meant fresh difficulties had to be overcome, and the aim throughout these years was to maintain essential needs through the difficult period until peace eventually enabled plans to be made for the succeeding decade.

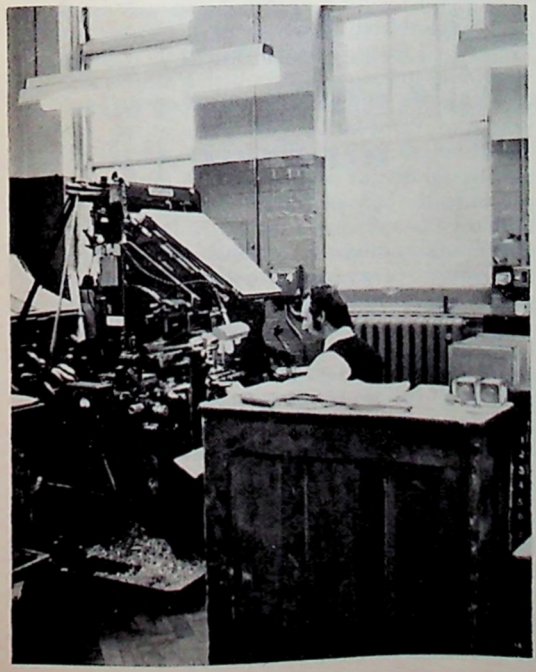
From 1946 much thought was given to the future of the Department and the result was the establishment of a unit with an important twofold function–the training for the industry (in the fullest sense–both practical and theoretical) of the young men from the Home wishing to take up printing as a career, and the production of a wide variety of printing to aid the Home in its work of caring for youngsters in need.

Thus we saw the formation of the Printing Technical School and the introduction of day-time classes providing a planned five-year course aimed at securing the National City and Guilds departmental intermediate certificate after two years, final examination in four years, allowing a fifth-year course covering elementary administration, costing and estimating.

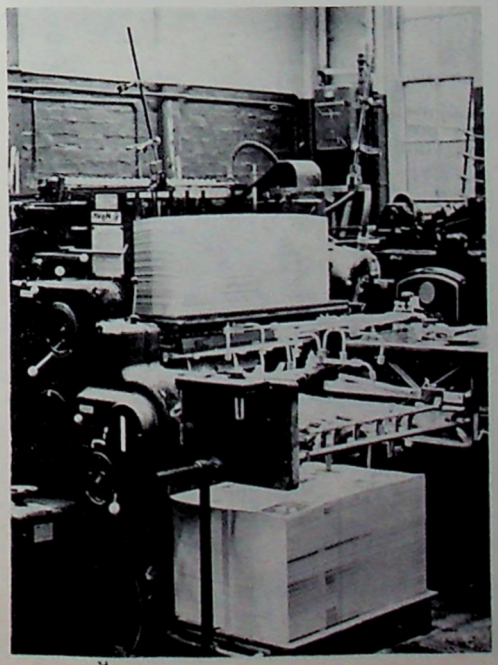
A significant event was the signing of an understanding between the Typographical Association and the Home providing for an average intake of 10½ boys per year for a five-year apprenticeship commencing at 16 with a permitted total of 55 boys at any one time in the composing and machine departments.

During these early post-war years special evening classes were run in the school for apprentices from outside commercial firms in the St Albans, Luton and Dunstable areas, and for some years

Type-setting, the first stage of the printing process.



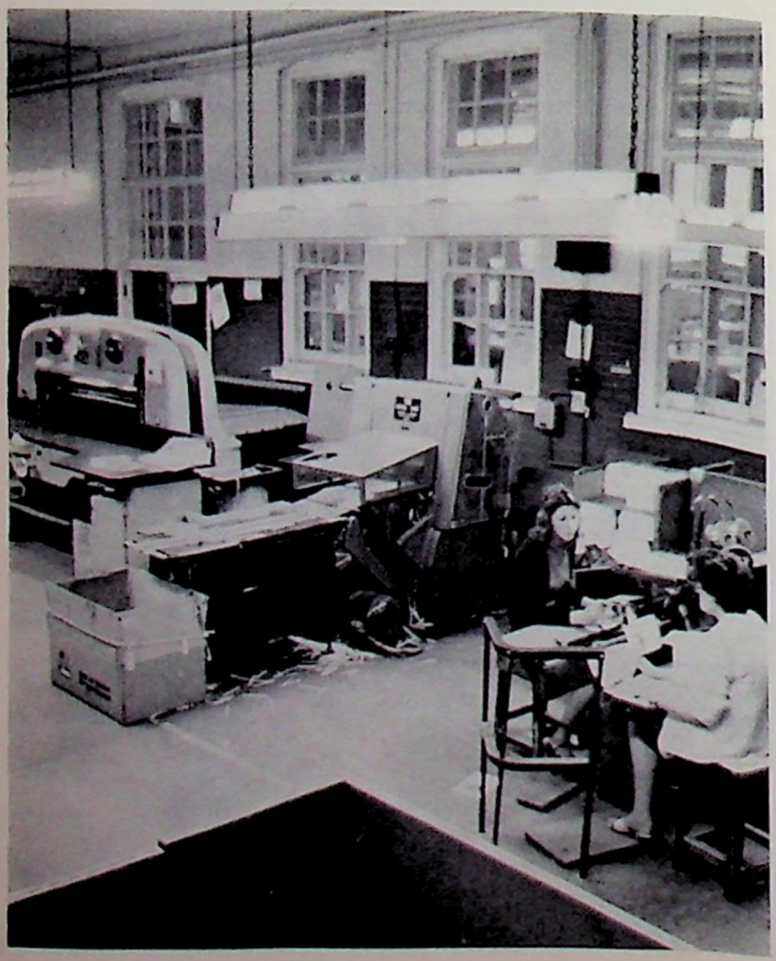
The two-colour Heidelberg letterpress machine on which your copy of *Point Three* is printed.



a team of instructors visited Messrs Waterlows of Dunstable on one evening per week to provide theoretical instruction to their young men.

The school was one of the first to be approved by the Joint Industrial Council Subcommittee which made a survey of establishments connected with the training of apprentices during 1949. By this year the new policy was achieving results and three final and three intermediate City and Guilds were obtained, rising in 1952 to 15 City and Guilds successes during the year. This pattern of technical education continued throughout the 1950s. In addition, many successes were gained in the British Federation of Master Printers Preliminary Technical Knowledge and Costing Examinations. It is of interest to note that from 1949 to 1965 the number of National Examination Certificates gained totalled 220.

The finishing department, where the pages are trimmed, folded and stitched.



A notable agreement made with the goodwill of both the British Federation of Master Printers and the Typographical Association in 1953 resulted in an innovation which was to have very beneficial effects on our training. During their last six months the apprentices were able to spend three months in the employ of recognised firms.

The school received goodwill from many sources in the industry, from the employers, the union and the machine manufacturers. One of the highlights was at the International Printing Exhibition in 1955 when all staff and apprentices were welcomed at the stand of the Heidelberg Machinery Company and were presented with the new fast running Heidelberg platen machine which had been brought over for special display at the exhibition. This was the 7,500th machine to be imported into Great Britain by the company. This most generous gift was repeated in 1963 when the 15,000th machine was presented to the school at that year's exhibition. Both these machines are still doing yeoman service. Reference to this period must also include mention of Messrs Hawthorn Baker who, on so many occasions, have given us most generous help with composing equipment.

By the start of the 1960s vast developments had been made throughout the country in the provision of technical education, and opportunities for training within a particular industry were available to those wishing to enter. The Home had already discontinued its policy of providing industrial and other training as part of after-care. Uprooting youngsters on leaving school to transplant them to an entirely new environment for a particular form of training was less in favour and as a result demand for places in the school had declined. In 1963 the Advisory Committee recommended the discontinuation of classes in 1965, and a small subcommittee was appointed to make recommendations concerning the future of the school. Three years later a firm decision was made to convert to a printing works by 1969, and by 1970 the change-over to commercial work and change of title to NCH Printing Department had been achieved. The Department's aim was to achieve the maximum commercial work possible without risk to the production of work for the Home.

It may be of interest that during the past year the turnover of the Department has exceeded £114,000 for the first time and well over £31,000 of outside commercial work was achieved.

NEWS POINT

ANSTEY'S £10,000 HOME

Anstey, Leics, branch's new headquarters was officially opened in September, the climax to a great deal of hard work since the decision was taken, back in 1969, that the hut used by the branch would not be usable much longer.

Col Andrew Martin, the owner of the site on which the old hut stood, generously presented the site to the branch. And not only that; he also gave them the adjoining plot, to create a site large enough for the building the branch felt it needed. Members were still faced, however, with the daunting task of finding some £10,000 to pay for the building itself.

Anstey members are not frightened of a challenge. The swimming-pool at the town's junior school, a youth club and a 'drop-in' centre are evidence of that. The money for the youth club and the 'drop-in' centre had been raised through a weekly tote competition and this method was adopted again. The first prize draw was made in November 1971. Even by this method, however, the branch estimated that raising the full sum required would take five years. A loan of £7,500 from headquarters enabled building work to start towards the end of 1972.

The old. The Hut, Anstey's old meeting place, now happily replaced. Photo: Frank Johnston

The branch has always been an active force in the community. It is no surprise to learn, therefore, that the branch is determined to put its new home to good use and to make it available to the community as a whole. Neighbouring branches have also been invited to use Toc H House Anstey for outings for elderly or handicapped people.

And the new. Sandy Giles, Director of Toc H (centre, facing camera), was among the distinguished guests at the opening of Anstey's new home. Photo: Edith Hammond

Treorchy Male Voice Choir in Chippenham

Reg Coates

On 29 September the world-famous Cor Meibion Treorci made its second appearance in Chippenham at a Toc H sponsored concert in aid of Greathouse Cheshire Home, where the choir has adopted a room. It was, by coincidence, a day of anniversaries. Herbert Jones, the choir's elocutionist, was making his 100th concert appearance with the choir and the Cheshire Foundation was celebrating its 25th anniversary; and not only was it the branch's 40th year, but also the 40th birthday of the choir's conductor, John Cynan Jones. It was also my parents' own Ruby Wedding anniversary.

Perhaps due to a mention in *Point Three*, tickets for the concert were soon in short supply, inquiries coming from members (and non-members) of Toc H over a wide area, including a number from London and even from North Wales, 200 miles away. Most encouraging was the massive support given by the branches in the Chippenham district.

The choir sang to the residents of Greathouse, where John Cynan Jones and I were interviewed by the BBC, and this, together with a rendering of 'Nant y Mynydd' ('Mountain Spring'), was broadcast on Radio 4 (Wales).

Turn your stamps into cash

Charles Wake can turn your overseas stamps into money for the Family Purse. In a recent letter Charles reports that there has been a falling off in contributions to his stamp appeal and asks us to stress that contributions are still urgently needed. 'We want more overseas stamps, including those of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man,' he writes. He adds that there is no longer a market for ordinary British stamps of small denominations. He still welcomes, however, British commemorative stamps, and stamps of a face value of 20p or more. Please send stamps to: Charles Wake, Rockcliffe, 7 Leyburn Grove, Paignton, Devon TQ4 5JH.

SPINAL LOUNGE FUND GROWS

The concept of a Toc H/Jimmy Savile lounge for spinal patients at Stoke Mandeville Hospital has clearly caught the imagination of branches over a wide area of the country. News has reached us this month of several more major fund-raising efforts.¶

Harefield, Middlesex, branch raised £400 at a village market. 'The true delight of the day', reports Roy Dennis, 'was the eager and spontaneous way that 20 village organisations, together with Uxbridge & Ickenham women's branch, plus many individuals, supported us with gifts or their labours. Here was a community working together for a common cause.'

A similar amount was raised by the Hemel Hempstead women's branch through a fête, combined with a Dog Show, held at Hemel Hempstead school.

About 80 people took part in a 24-mile sponsored walk along the canal bank from Watford to Hemel Hempstead, organised joinly by Watford and Hemel Hempstead branches, which raised £500. Several members of the headquarters staff from Wendover took part in this event, either as walkers or as stewards.

Among other efforts organised by Toc H was the sponsored bowling event run by the new group in Aylesbury. Women's Institutes in Buckinghamshire have also contributed substantially to the appeal. For instance, Akeley Evening WI held a ploughman's supper in the village hall, attended by about 80 people, which raised £28.

Brisk selling of raffle tickets at the village market organised by Harefield branch in aid of the Stoke Mandeville appeal.
Photo: Middlesex County Press

A second music club

The two moving spirits behind the Mill Hill Toc H Music Club, Tommy Houghton and Wilf Ransom, have both moved to the Folkestone area. It is no surprise to learn, therefore, that Hythe branch has launched a music club. The first concert featured the pianist Walter Klein, playing works by Mozart and Schubert. The great Yehudi Menuhin and Raymond Leppard and the English Chamber Orchestra are among the world-famous artists appearing later in this inaugural season. Proceeds of the concerts will go towards the £4,000 required for the purchase of a new coach–a much needed replacement for the present vehicle which is in constant use providing transport for the elderly and disabled. The local paper commented on the concert's 'delightfully informal atmosphere'.

66 branches involved in emergency help schemes

Sixty-six branches participate in emergency help schemes for elderly people living on thier own. Of these, 2[illegible] run their own schemes, 14 run schemes jointly with other organisations, 18 assist with schemes run by others, three initiated schemes which have since been taken over by the local authority and six are in the early stages of developing schemes.

These figures emerged from the replies to the questionnaire circulated to branches in July. However, Percy Williams of Loughton, Essex, branch, who presented a report on the results of the survey to the Methods Committee in October, pointed out that replies had been received from only 300 of the 950 branches. This was probably due to the fact that the questionnaire had been sent out during the holiday period.

The most popular emergency call system was the use of flashing lights (used by 22 branches), followed closely by the buzzer system (used by 18 branches). In addition, three use light and buzzer combined. 'Help' cards and the like are favoured by 13 branches.

In addition to the 66 branches already involved in schemes, 41 branches declared that they would be prepared to operate a scheme, and a further 28 said that they would be willing to help neighbouring branches by making parts or, more frequently, by keeping records and visiting.

'The first impression is of wide activity on emergency call schemes throughout the country,' writes Percy Williams in the conclusion to his report. 'Closer study suggests, however, that all this effort is only marginal compared to the real need. For example, the scale of effort in quite small towns and other communities equals or surpasses that in the large towns and cities. This suggests that the efforts are more a reflection of the local community spirit than of the need.'

Holiday success

A party of 18 residents and two members of staff from the Methil Haven Home, Fife, spent a holiday at Alison House. The oldest resident was 92 and some were fairly disabled. 'Some fears had been expressed by the Social Work Department', says Mr Dodd, the Home's Chief Nursing Officer, 'at the length of the journey to Alison House [some 300 miles]. Mr Dodd himself had a few doubts beforehand he had none afterwards. 'The holiday was one of the most wonderful ventures that the residents and staff had experienced,' he says. 'The comradeship for the two weeks was marvellous, with residents helping each other, taking their turn at washing up and letting their hair down at the evening parties. Some residents have even taken to going out themselves since their return, when before they would be very quiet and withdrawn.'

The veterans' party who spent a week at the Old House visited the Poperinge Town Hall and were welcomed by the Burgomaster (third from left in the front row). On the Burgomaster's left is David Doris, Provost of Largs, Ayrshire, and a member of Largs branch. The visit was marked by an exchange of gifts between the two Town Councils. The veterans' party spent a day visiting the Somme battlefields, during which they were filmed by the French television service.

Project Moonfleet

THE DORSET COAST IN SIGHT & SOUND

The chapel was sparsely furnished, dimly lighted and unheated, but serenity radiated from every stone in the walls.

This was OTHONA.

Fourteen Toc H members stayed there for a week of: the beauty of the Dorset countryside, a log fire in the open hearth after dinner, Crispin's bulk and the sound of his laughter, ducks and waders, good food, no newspapers, Len's voice, the medieval strip fields at Portland, gaiety and laughter round the fire, mountains of dishes, the rain, Alison's calm assurance when leading prayers. The sound of swans flying, the increased prospect of sales by makers of pebble-polishing machines after Crispin had given his collectors an evening of polishing by hand, more food, the unmusical sound of the minibus as its springs protest, bearded tits, serious discussions around the fire, more dishes, the peaceful scene at Arne, the (unnamed) female who tried to set fire to the house, the fantastic sweep of Chesil Beach, small birds in the reed beds. Cold winds, fossil hunting at Charmouth (successful for some), no radio, the artistry revealed in Frank's slides, raw onions, the cry of the curlew, sunshine, the delicate gentleness of the burly bird-ringer at Portland as he handles a goldcrest weighing just 5 grammes, the sound of the sea in a storm, Michael's sadistic sense of humour as he laughs himself silly when Frank falls off his seat. Seventy-seven species of bird sighted in the week, not a tv set in the house, the amount of work put in by Crispin, assisted by Len and Frank, the view from the patio, more food, the look of incredulity on the face of an ardent ornithologist who hadn't had a drink for the day when he sees a pink flamingo standing amongst the ducks at Radipole, the quiet companionship of Olive and Doug.

Miles of film, Keith's enthusiasm for the birds, the haunting melody sung by Alison and Sarah when they sing and play the guitar to us, prayers in chapel, a deer grazing in the marshes, hawks and falcons, the gale, those not named –for all contribute to the work and fellowship–the sight of over a hundred swans sheltering from the storm, sunshine, more food, more dishes, Dorset Knobs.

Around and through it all the atmosphere of OTHONA.

Note: Details of next year's project appear on the inside back cover.

Preston Park, Brighton, branch celebrated its move into a room at the Patcham Community Centre by organising a stall at the annual Patcham Fair. Haberdashery, groceries and home-made candles were the main items for the stall, backed up by a collection of 78 rpm records for connoisseurs. £40 was raised, half for branch funds and half for a school for handicapped children.

Holiday for mentally handicapped

Several months of planning and fund-raising by members of Brigg branch in Lincolnshire, and the whole-hearted co-operation of the members of Bispham branch, Blackpool, enabled 31 mentally handicapped women to have the 'best holiday they had ever had', reports Bill Shakespeare. The women, who ranged in age from 16 to 40, were all residents of Birch House in Brigg, where Bill's wife is matron. They spent a week at a hotel in Blackpool and enjoyed swimming, paddling and boating by day and shows in the evening. The highlight of the week, however, was the hospitality received from Elsie Threlfall and other members of Bispham branch.

New studio

Cambridge branch has raised £417 towards the cost of a soundproof studio for the hospital broadcast service in the city's rebuilt Addenbrooke's Hospital. This result exceeds the target originally set by over £100. 'We must acknowledge', writes branch chairman Philip Hunt, 'our gratitude and thanks to Saffron Walden branch, which came magnificently to our aid with a sum of £117.'

The hospital broadcast service was initiated by Cambridge branch 19 years ago. The service includes commentaries on local football matches and a record request programme which recently included its 35,000th request.

Branch in takeover bid

Ilminster, Somerset, branch became involved in a 'takeover' with a difference when members and their wives ran one of the town's cafés for a week. Proprietor Dennis Harris took a week's holiday and, rather than close the café, he invited Toc H to keep it open, and to retain any profit. As a result the branch is £67 better off. 'We think this was an original idea for raising funds,' writes Arthur Worthington. Seems a good one.

In brief...

Welcome to the new youth group formed at Knottingley, Yorks. The 17 members, all of whom are teenagers, intend to concentrate on work for physically and mentally handicapped children. Many of the members took part in this summer's play scheme in Knottingley.

Streatham women's branch seem to have scooped a TV series on the Brontë family. A party in October for Builders resident at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables featured a dramatic presentation of the life of the Brontë sisters, which was enthusiastically received.

The Borders District has acquired a six-berth caravan to provide holidays for families in need. The caravan is on a very attractive site overlooking Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Roy Darleston, probation officer in Sheffield, told a recent South Yorks District meeting of the success of the three holidays based on the Colsterdale Centre, each lasting a week, for boys in his care. And he paid tribute to the help given by branches in the District.

Children's camps have always been a prominent feature of Toc H summer programmes, and several reports of successful camps have reached us. A week under canvas at a farm near Bolton-by-Bowland, Lancs, for instance. And the 13th annual Wulfrun District camp, which catered for 60 children over the two weeks and was held this year at Aberarth, Cards.

Kettering, Northants, has joined the list of branches raising funds to buy a chairmobile. Meanwhile, Swindon District is collecting Green Shield stamps to buy its second chair.

All Hallows is featured in an attractively produced booklet on some of London's best-known churches. The booklet, called *London Jewels*, can be purchased from the author, Phil Mason, 1 Whitney Road, Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants. It costs 25p.

Gedling, Notts, members were disappointed when only four outsiders turned up to a public meeting called by the branch to outline plans for a play area and more help for old people.

The Croydon Centre is one of the distribution points for *Yours*, the new newspaper for the elderly produced by Help the Aged.

Congratulations to Durdham Down branch member John Brown, who has been appointed City Clerk to the new Bristol District Council, formed under the reorganisation of local government.

PICTURE POINT

The Governor-General of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Florizel Glasspole (second from right), has accepted an invitation to be the Patron of Toc H Jamaica. With him in King's House are branch officers (left to right) Adolph D'Oyley, treasurer; Percy Jarrett, secretary; and William Watson, chairman. Photo: The Gleaner Co

Another flashing-light emergency call system is installed by Barkingside branch in Essex. Working on the job are Fred Hennessey (kneeling) and 'Robbie' Robinson. Photo: Harold Hinde

The Development Team of the Spring Parks and Fairfields Districts in South London had another busy summer. (Top) 39 children enjoyed a week's holiday at Dibgate Camp, near Folkestone, Kent. Ernie Goodman (centre), treasurer to the Development Team, who was one of the helpers at this camp, prepares to board the coach outside the Croydon Centre. (Above) Some of those who took part in the weekly outings for children from Cheyne Hospital seen outside Mark 7 before enjoying a boat trip on the Regent's Canal. Photos: Nancy Grilfiths

In the West End

The appointment of Ursula Lefroy as a community worker in the West End of Newcastle was a significant experiment so far as Toc H is concerned. These extracts from a report on her work, prepared by Adrian Dudman, suggest some of the lessons which were learned. Next month Adrian will describe the way in which the project has developed since Ursula's death.

The aim of the work has been to help individuals and groups to participate more fully in taking decisions which will affect their lives. The operative words in the brief for this appointment were that a catalyst was required in an area of deprivation and despair. The method was left to the worker but it was expected that she should live in the area of her work.

Community work is dependent on the approach of the individual worker, the social customs of the area and the expectations of those among whom she is working. There are inevitably problems arising from being closely involved so much of the time, but there are advantages as well.

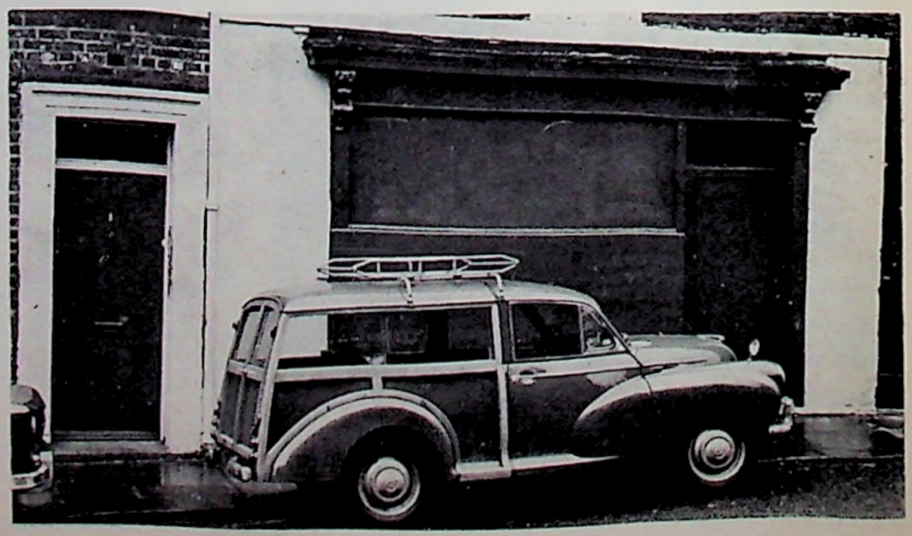
Community workers in areas of deprivation and breakdown fulfil many functions. They are listeners, interpreters, communicators, deputies, encouragers, promoters and leaders from behind. They make suggestions, but above all they aim to encourage the latent talents of those living round them. For the worker it is a life full of demands, joys, sadness, minor and major disasters.

Housing demands took up much of the community worker's time. Advising on finance, education, health, marital and domestic matters, assisting with repairs, obtaining furniture, forwarding complaints to the Public Health Department, giving away clothing, as well as having many friends, made up Ursula's week. In addition, she had to make frequent calls on the local police and had some contact with the Community Relations Officer.

The greatest contribution that a community worker living in the area makes is by being available to all at all times. She is someone who will listen, knows who to refer to, or just someone who cares enough to open the door and invite the caller in. In Elswick this role was shared with Mrs Blair, secretary of the West End Tenants' Association, who lived about 50 yards from 1 Sceptre Street, the Toc H centre.

Various conclusions can be drawn from the experience in Newcastle:

1 Working in depth in urban areas is not new for the Movement, but time has passed since the 1920s. Urban areas are now frequently devoid of the usual network of activities, of kinship and friendship ties, and this is one of the hallmarks of slum and problem areas. Most new towns lack that almost indefinable feeling of community.



1 Sceptre Street, Ursula Lefroy's base in Newcastle.

2 Allow the area to define itself gradually, and beware of taking on too large a geographical patch.

3 Consider carefully the real long- and short-term needs of the place chosen.

4 Carry out careful research into what other statutory and voluntary societies are already doing, so that difficulties may be avoided.

5 Allow sufficient time to make adequate contacts through churches, social services, senior officers, councillors and businessmen, as well as by using any available Toc H members.

6 Assuming that this is a long-term implementation of the Four Points, the worker must be allowed to let the situation dictate the way the project is handled and not attempt to adhere to a set or rigid pattern.

7 Within the scope of the Charities Act and the Charter, the project should encourage the growth of an increased awareness of civil rights.

8 Be clear that the real job is involvement with people and not merely the extension of Toc H.

9 Use all forms of publicity which advertise a well-equipped and awake modern Movement.

10 Use and wherever possible develop the skills of members, because urban areas are some of the barest in terms of membership.

11 Retain mobility by renting a property which will not tie the worker too closely. Consider using an office in the designated area, and be generous in not always requiring a worker to live in the problem area.

Appeals Organiser
required by Help The Aged
for the following areas:

1 North London
2 South Cheshire/North Staffordshire
3 Huntingdonshire, East Midland & Fen Country
4 Glasgow area

A vacancy also occurs for an ORGANISER to cover country. Ideal for dedicated Christian or public-spirited person, preferably over 50. Appeals are well established locally and involve organising clothing and cash collections through churches. Salaried position with car or car allowance. Please write with full details to John Cole, Help The Aged, 8/10 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP, or telephone 439 4024.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during October:

3—East Midlands Area, Garforth (w), Washington (j).

2—Central, Crediton (w), Fleet (w), Hythe (j), Pant (j).

1—Bideford (m), Bingham (w), Bognor Regis (m), Bognor Regis (w), East Anglia Area, Headingley (w), Ickenham & Uxbridge (w), Ipswich (w), Milford on Sea (j), Moseley (j), Pocklington Court (j), Prestonpans (m), St Just (m), Seaton Carew (w), Trimley (w), Twydall (j).

We extend a warm welcome to the 35 new members.

Ruby's Retirement

Peggy Hawksbee

Well over a hundred members of West Sussex, Mid Sussex and Southdown Districts gathered on 6 October at St John's Church Hall, West Worthing, to say farewell to Ruby Relf. Members were welcomed by Mabel Davey, chairman of West Worthing branch who were acting as hosts, and she said how pleased she was that four members from Fleet branch and one from Minster had been able to be present on this occasion. Molly Williams, Hon Area Secretary, asked Ruby to accept a cheque as a token of the appreciation of the three Districts for all she had done for them over the years, and Molly paid tribute to Ruby's devoted service, mentioning in particular her qualities of reliability and concern for people.

Dorothy Ardern, one of the founder members of Worthing branch, presented Ruby with a bouquet of roses.

In expressing her thanks Ruby said she would not say 'goodbye' but merely 'au revoir' as, although she was relinquishing her post as Regional Secretary, she would of course be remaining as a member of Toc H. She pointed out that had it not been for Tubby there would have been no meeting such as today's, and she stressed the importance of the quality of friendship in Toc H and urged that members should hold to the eternal realities no matter what material changes might come about.

Some 70 members from Thanet branches gathered at the Churchill Day Centre, Margate, Kent, for a similar farewell presentation to Ruby. 'The get-together', writes Mrs Bartlett, Margate branch secretary, 'was to try to show our appreciation for all the wonderful work she has done for Toc H.'

Letters

Moved

I must just write and say how moved I was by an article written in the October issue of *Point Three* called 'Red Plastic Plates and Cold Spam'.

Those of us who have done much visiting in mental hospitals will be aware of the various moods and atmosphere portrayed in this article. But only someone who had gone through such a shattering experience could write in this way and be able to put over the real feeling of isolation of a mental patient and the inadequacy of those who try desperately to help them.

The most moving thing to me about writing of this nature, and I have noticed it particularly in poetry written by mental patients, is that the moment of breakthrough when they can respond to others with warmth and love comes over very strongly indeed.

What a wonderful article.

Sue Sutton *Watford*

The £2 million

My letter in the July 1972 issue was to sound a warning on the danger of riches–that £2 million could be an embarrassment to Toc H.
The accounts published in the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 1973 would seem to justify my pessimism. These noted a sharp decline in total contributions of 11·9 per cent. 'Neither the decline in Family contributions nor the further decline in membership (of 5·1 per cent) can be accepted with complacency...'
The cause of this decline is surely in the second feature of the accounts, the massive 'increased income received from investments and interest amounting to £119,459'. Obviously many members have thought to themselves, 'If Toc H is so rich, they won't miss my petty contribution.' And so their commitment to the Movement is weakened. Toc H began and flourished in situations where men and women had their backs to the wall. But when security and comfort prevail, we are all too easily swallowed up by 'the cares of the world and the delight in riches'.

(The Rev) Hugh Stevenson *Sheffield*

Obituary

We regret to announce the death, on 19 October, of **The Lord Colgrain MC.** Formerly a member of the Central Executive, he became a Vice-President in 1949 and was the Hon Treasurer of Toc H from 1950 to 1954. (An appreciation will appear next month.)

We announce the death on 15 October, of **Mrs Norah K Edwards OBE**, members in this country, in Canada, Australia and New Zealand will remember with affection and gratitude. Norah was one of the team of members in the Manchester area during the 'twenties, and later in London. Her interest in Toc H never wavered. During numerous travels overseas she was always at the service of members and branches. She bore cheerfully her handicap of deafness, and many will remember her 'beetle-trap' which went everywhere with her in the early days. We were glad that in recognition of her long service and leadership she was made a Vice-President of the Women's Association. At the funeral service members and friends joined in the Ceremony of Light, and remember her with thanksgiving.
H B

We also announce the death of the following members:
In July: Sybil P Slater (Brighton). **In August:** Archie J. B. Brett (Cosham), Archie L Canter (Purton), John R Cocking (Rishton), Frank P Hurt (Sutton-in-Ashfield). **In September:** Lucy Fawcett (Woodford), Arthur Hardcastle (Rawthorpe), Benjamin Potts (Wolverhampton), Dorothy V Talbott (Netheravon). **In October:** Dora Avery (RHHI, Putney), Susan M Boyce (Chingford), Amy Spong (Thornton Cleveleys), Francis C E Stone (Stow on the Wold), Kenneth P Syms (Preston Park).
We give thanks for their lives.

'Developments in Social Work'

Ten television programmes on 'Developments in Social Work' are starting on 11 January 1974, BBC 2, Fridays, 6.40 p.m. This series is aimed at both voluntary and professional social workers and is a must for anyone seriously interested in what social and community workers should be doing in our society.
Toc H has been consulted in planning the series, along with other social work agencies. The BBC is keen to hear your reactions.
For free discussion notes and further information write to: Sue McWilliam, PR Department, Wendover.

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three* Magazine, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.

RAISE FUNDS QUICKLY EASILY. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc sold and imprinted to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD2 3AF.

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050)398 31/32.

DO YOU BELIEVE in elderly people remaining active? National Charity with residential establishment in lovely position on south coast would welcome applications for position of hostess, to take a lead. Part-time volunteers are available to teach crafts. Residential post; catering experience an advantage but not essential if good organiser. Retired man also considered, if adaptable. Write fully giving experience, date available, salary (if any) to John Cole, Help the Aged, 8/10 Denman Street, London W1.

STAMP APPEAL. When your Christmas cards from overseas arrive, please remember the Toc H used-stamp appeal. British commemorative stamps and those over 20p are also urgently needed to maintain the appeal's contribution to the Family Purse. Send them to: Charles Wake ISO, 7 Leyburn Grove, Paignton, Devon TQ4 5JH.

HOTEL LYBEER has been a centre for Toc H members since 1945. Charles, a Toc H Builder and well known to many members, welcomes parties and individuals. Charles Vanhove, Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.

BELGIAN HOLIDAYS 1974. Weekend 26–29 April. Eight-day 13–20 July. Include Talbot House, Poperinge, and a full programme of excursions, Middleburg in Holland, Bruges, Brussels, etc. Full details: Skegg Blanchard, Toc H, Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks.

VISIT WARDEN MANOR in 1974. Historic manor house in rural Isle of Sheppey countryside near sea. Happy Toc H fellowship. New tennis court. 1974 season 6 July–14 Sept. Also open Easter (11–15 April) and Spring Bank Holiday weekend (24–27 May). Write John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, near Sheerness, Kent ME12 4HD.

THE DORSET COAST IN SIGHT AND SOUND. The highly successful 'Dorset Coast' Project will be repeated in 1974. The dates will be 11–18 May and the cost will again be £12. The week is based on the Othona Community House, near Burton Bradstock, and overlooking Chesil Beach and Lyme Bay. The week's activities will include bird watching–with visits to reserves and bird recording station–fossil hunting, photography and recording. There will be sessions on bird recognition, local geology and camera technique etc.

The number of persons on this Project is limited to 14, so early booking is advised. All enquiries and applications should be addressed to the Rev Keith M Beck, Western Regional Office, 27 North Street, Wellington, Somerset.

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